

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 1-23 have been rejected.

Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Sigler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,717,830). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants submit that Sigler et al. fails to teach or suggest at least the feature of a first node to establish a first channel with a first communication device and at least one second node to establish at least one second channel with at least one second communication device as recited in claim 1 of the Applicants' claimed invention.

This is in contrast to the Sigler et al. patent that discloses a satellite trunked radio services system which uses a single, dedicated channel for supporting communications among the participating member of a Closed User Group (CUG). The "central controller broadcasting the message to the NET group informing the NET group of the allocated frequency and the voice communication associated therewith" [claim 6, (A2)]. Upon the assignment of this dedicated channel at an allocated frequency, the members of the CUG communicate with each other over this single channel.

Futhermore, Sigler et al. discloses "the central controller receiving the NET ID, validating the first MET for communication, validating the NET ID, allocating a frequency for the NET group, and broadcasting the message to the NET group including the second MET informing the NET group of the allocated frequency and the voice communication associated therewith" [claim 12, (d)].

Sigler et al. is an example of a typical push-to-talk system discussed in the Related Art portion of the Applicants' specification (see the Applicants' specification, paragraph 4, third sentence) that "relies on a single frequency, or dedicated channel, over which communications are received by the wireless communication devices."

The Applicants' claimed invention uses a first channel and at least one second channel for supporting communications. Therefore, the Applicants' present invention does not require the usage of a single frequency, or dedicated channel for its operation, but rather, can operate over a plurality of channels among the members of a communicating network.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Sigler et al. fails to teach or suggest at least these features and combinations thereof as variously recited in claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection be withdrawn and that claim 1 be allowed.

Claims 2-23 are dependent claims that depend upon independent claim 1 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons presented above regarding claim 1.

CONCLUSION

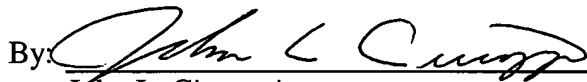
In light of the remarks contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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